

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 4996

號六九百三十四第

日六念月十年未辛治同

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 1871.

五拜禮 號八月二十英 港香

PRICE \$2½ PER MONTH

Arrivals.

Dec. 7. SUWONADA, AMER. SH., 1,800, Clark, from Canton, General—Aug. 1871 & Co.

Departures.

Dec. 7. MARY BLAIR, for Foochow.
Dec. 7. EDWARD SIBLEY, for Bangkok.
Dec. 7. CHINA, SH., for Shanghai.
Dec. 7. STANLEY, for Canton.
Dec. 7. MARY BLAIR, for Foochow.
Dec. 7. THALES, SH., for Amoy.
Dec. 8. KWANTUNG, SH., for East Coast.

Clearances.

AT THE HARBOR MASTER'S OFFICE,
7TH DECEMBER.
British Consulate, for Singapore.
Ellen Morris, for Whampoa.
Competitor, for Whampoa.
Paulista, for Saigon.
Kwangtung, SH., for East Coast.

Passenger.

None.

Reports.

None.

British Salts To-day.

W. K. HUGHES.

Sugar and Rice.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Sundry Articles.

CHRISTMAS GOODS.

ROSE & CO. have received, per Mail Steamer *Oriana*, the following Choice assortment of Goods, comprising:
FRENCH CLOTHING and FLOWERS.
The FLOWER, "Paris in Flames,"
"Paris in Ashes."
Ladies' SILK, BEAVER, FELT, VELVET
and STRAW HATS, new designs.
Ladies' PARIS RIDING HATS.
Ladies' SILK and VELVET HATS, Seal.
Skin Trimming.
The NEW SHAWL COSTUME, in GREY,
BRONZE, BROWN and CREAM.
LADIES' VELVET.
TERRY and TARTAN in MARONE, SLATE, OBERSE and BLACK SATINS.
LACE, MUSLIN, and CAMBRIE SETS,
Plain and Figured BRIDAL VEILS.
Black, White and Brown E. S. SATIN BOOTS.
Choice Christmas PRESENTS.
TOYS and GAMES.

RGCO & CO.

Wellington Street and Queen's Road.
1st 2093 Hongkong, 5th December, 1871.

DENTAL NOTICE.

THE undersigned begs to inform any persons desiring to consult him professionally, that he intends visiting Manila about the middle of December next, to be absent two months.

V. D. COLLINS.

No. 7, Arbutnott Road, Hongkong, 28th November, 1871. [1st 2042]

NOTICE.

M. R. CECIL GEORGE TATHAM is authorized to sign our firm per procurator at Foochow from this date.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO.

1st 1956 Hongkong, 11th November, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE business hitherto carried on at this place under the style of A. J. MUSGROVE & SON, is now to be discontinued with our own, both Mr. J. A. MUSGROVE and Mr. F. SWINSON have this day been admitted partners in our firm, which in future will consist of

Mr. W. M. HALE.

J. G. CASWELL.

F. SOENSEND.

W. M. HALE & CO.

1st 1744 Saigon, 1st October, 1871.

NOTICE.

M. R. THOMAS PICKERING DROWN is a partner in my business from this day, which will in future be conducted under the Style or Firm of E. VINCENT & CO.

E. VINGOENT.

1st 1676 Swatow, 2nd October, 1871.

NOTICE.

M. R. WILLIAM ABBOTT TURNBULL is authorised to sign our firm from this date.

BIRLEY, WORTHINGTON & CO.

1st 829 Shanghai, 1st May, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. J. A. KOC is in our firm, ceased on the 28th of July by mutual consent, and we shall carry on our business, as hitherto, under the same style.

J. SMITH & CO.

1st 1410 Chelio, 6th August, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned, who has been carrying on business in Macao as a Commission Agent, and also in Foochow, has now sold his interest in his firm to Messrs. H. JUNIOR & CO. in Queen's Road, has this day opened a branch of his firm in this Colony, to carry on business as an Auctioneer, General Commission Agent, and trustee that by strict attention to business to merit a share of the public patronage.

The business will from this date be carried on here, and at Macao, under the style of

AYRES & CO. and Mr. NICHOLAS DE JOURA is authorized to sign our firm per procurator.

MIGUEL AYRES DA SILVA.

1st 2034 Hongkong, 1st December, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned, Sweetmeat Dealers' Shop, has been established at Canton for a number of years, and no other branch exists than the one established in this City.

NOTICE.

THE success of this most delicious and unrivaled Preserves has caused some impudent and evil disposed persons at Hongkong and Macao (who are eager to obtain money by illegal means), to apply the name of "CHY LOONG" to their own inferior Goods. Thus the Public is cheated; but what goes with it is the distribution of 20% of the net profits reserved for Contractors may be arranged.

The Undersigned, having been appointed agents in China for the above Company, are prepared to grant policies covering marine risks at current rates.

LO KEE SENG.

1st 1830 Singapore, 1st August, 1871.

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CHY LOONG.

Sweetmeat Dealers' Shop, Canton, 30th October, 1871.

Banks.

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL \$5,000,000 Dollars.

Court of Directors.

Chairman—HON. J. B. WALTER.
Deputy Chairman—J. P. BRYN, Esq.
H. B. FOOTE, Esq.
A. Foot, Esq.
Wm. Lomax, Esq.
H. Malches, Esq.

Managers.

Hongkong—James Greig, Esq.,
Chief Manager.
Shanghai—David McLean, Esq.
London Bankers—London and County Bank.

HONGKONG.

INTEREST ALLOWED.

On Current Deposit Accounts at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum on the daily balance.

On Fixed Deposits at 3 months 2 per cent. per annum.

For 3 months 2 per cent. per annum.

Local Bills DISCOUNTED.

Credits granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on London, and the chief commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

Letters of Credit issued by the above-named.

No charge for Policy fees.

GENERAL WEEKLY SALE.

ANE, CRAWFORD & CO. will sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

REDUCTION IN RATES ON CHINESE RISKS.

ON and after the 15th instant, the minimum rate for the insurance against Fire of Chinese Premises in this Colony will be reduced to Two per cent. per annum.

JARDINE, MATTHEWS & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Limited.

If 1870, Hongkong, 1st November, 1870.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

GENERAL WEEKLY SALE.

ANE, CRAWFORD & CO. will sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE HONGKONG & CHINA GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

SHAREHOLDERS are hereby notified that

in accordance with the 6th Clause of the

Articles of Association of the Company,

the Ninth Hall of Twelve Dollars and Fifty Cents per share is payable on the 31st December instant, at the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Interest at the rate of Twelve per cent. per annum will be charged on all calls paid after that day.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be

CLOSED from the 16th to the 31st, both days inclusive.

A. NEWTON,

Manager.

274 2079 Hongkong, 4th December, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE Transfer Books of the Company will be

CLOSED from the 16th to the 31st, both days inclusive.

JAS. B. OUGHTREIGHT,

Secretary.

303 2071 Hongkong, 1st December, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE Transfer Books of the Company will be

CLOSED from the 16th to the 31st, both days inclusive.

A. NOEL BLAKEMAN,

Secretary.

207 Hongkong, 5th December, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE Transfer Books of the Company will be

CLOSED from the 16th to the 31st, both days inclusive.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & CO.,

Agents.

2d 2109 Hongkong, 8th December, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE Transfer Books of this Company will be

CLOSED from the 16th to the 31st, both days inclusive.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & CO.,

Agents.

2d 2112 Hongkong, 8th December, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE Transfer Books of this Company will be

CLOSED from the 16th to the 31st, both days inclusive.

AUGUSTINE HEARD & CO.,

Agents.

2d 2114 Hongkong, 8th December, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE Transfer Books of this Company will be

CLOSED from the 16th to the 31st, both

The Chronicle and Directory for 1872.

THE Publisher requests that those persons who have not yet returned the printed forms which have been sent to them to fill up, will be good enough to do so without delay. Any persons who have recently arrived, and to whom printed forms have not been sent, are respectfully requested to forward their names and addresses as early as possible for insertion.

Daily Press Office, Dec. 1st, 1871.

The Chronicle and Directory for 1872.

THIS Work, now in its TENTH year of its existence, will be published as early as practicable after the close of the current year.

It will be compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best and most authentic sources, and no pains will be spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of which is increased by the addition of a Chrono-lithograph plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE

AT THE PEAK;

also of
THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS
(Designed especially for this Work);
MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,
and of the

THE COAST OF CHINA;
besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

The Directory will be published in Two Parts, complete at \$5; or with the Lists of Agents, Post Directories, Maps, &c., at \$3.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily Press Office, or to the following Agents:

Satsuma.....Messrs. HUTCHINGS & CAMPBELL,
WILSON, NICHOLLS & CO.
Amoy.....WILSON, NICHOLLS & CO.
Formosa.....HENDER & CO.
Fuchow.....KELLY & CO., Shanghai.

Ningpo.....TAYLOR, HOLTZ & CO.
Shanghai.....KELLY & CO.
Hankow & Canton.....HALL & HOLZ & KELLY
River Ports.....CO. & Shangha.

Chefoo.....HALL & HOLZ & KELLY
Nanchang.....CO. & Shangha.
Tsin-tau & Peking.....HALL & HOLZ & KELLY
Peking.....C. & J. TRADING CO.

Hioo, Osaka.....C. & J. TRADING CO.
Yokohama.....MESSRS. CO. & CO.
Greece Office.....M. F. ALGER, Clement-Jane.
London.....M. F. ALGER, Clement-Jane.
London.....MESSRS. T. E. HIGGIN & CO.
New York.....MESSRS. S. M. PERTHREE & CO.,
37, Park Row.

The delivery of the Daily Press from this office commenced on Thursday morning at 6:45, and the last messenger left this office at 11:45.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 8TH, 1871.

Our attention has been called in two or three directions to a matter which has caused a great deal of comment among the mercantile community. It appears that the Telegraph between Shanghai and this, was discovered on Tuesday last to be out of order, but no notice whatever was sent to the public, the result being that messages were sent up to Shanghai, and the greatest surprise occasioned as to the non-receipt of answers. One gentleman who went to the office to ascertain how it was had not received an answer to a message which he had forwarded, was informed simply that they would send a further message to Deep Bay. Considering that this was not a very large proportion of the distance between Victoria and Shanghai, he made some further enquiries, which resulted in his discovering what was the true state of affairs. Only yesterday did the company give any public intimation of the accident, when a circular to the following effect was sent round by the Superintendent:

I am sorry to inform you that a disorder has occurred in the Telegraphic Cable between Hongkong and Shanghai, but I hope the communication will be re-established in a very few days, the repairing ship being now at work.

The omission is really one of a serious nature, and we cannot but suppose that the line of action which has been adopted, is only the result of some very unfortunate mistake. It is not impossible that under the hope that the flaw might be easily remedied, the Superintendent decided upon keeping the matter quiet; but the actual consequences of this policy will, we are confident, be sufficient to prevent his continuing it on future occasions.

It is almost superfluous to point out the very detrimental results which may accrue in some instances; as, for example, when a mercantile man may have sent a message up to Shanghai or vice-versa, instructing his agent to perform a certain act, if he do not hear again from him—a course likely very often to be adopted when the sending of a second message is a matter of considerable expense. Serious loss might be the result in such a case; and, although we cannot pretend to have any legal knowledge especially on so difficult a point, it may be suggested that a question might very reasonably be raised whether a Telegraph Company, by receiving a message and not stating that it was not in a position to transmit it at once, would not lay itself open to damages. The reception of the message, if no intimation to the contrary is given, is an implied contract to send it in the ordinary way. True, the Company have a clause in their printed regulations to the effect that when an interruption of communication occurs, messages will be forwarded between the stations nearest to the interruption by the quickest means of communication—in the present instance the steamer Dionne, which is to call at Amoy on her way—but an intimation should be given that this course has been rendered necessary in any given case, so that the sender of the message may not be left in blissful ignorance that his communication has for all practical purposes never gone forward.

It is almost needless to do more than merely suggest the serious results which might accrue in this manner; but in addition, it is fair to urge that the general public may not unreasonably expect to be informed of a matter so much affecting their interests. It would always be easy to give an intimation when an interruption occurred; and we can only conclude, judging from the consideration which the Company generally

show in their dealings with the public, that in the present instance, the omission has been the effect of some accident or oversight, and that it will not be made into a precedent.

The French mail is signalled as we go to press.

The conspiracy case was continued yesterday at the Supreme Court to a late hour. Mr. Hayler addressed the jury at considerable length on behalf of the prisoners, and the Acting Attorney-General made his reply. The summing up of the Chief Justice commenced after 5 o'clock, and the Court was adjourned after 8 o'clock, the Judge having at that time given his charge altered to using abusive language, thereby threatening a breach of the public peace. This was assented to.

The complainant stated that he spoke to defendant about his conduct in going into the water, and the weather-worn and nameless sailor about the right of a master to flog his crew.

He said that he had no chance of any kind of the most considerate treatment, and that the crew of the Naomu were wrong.

It is true that when the yachts were started there was hardly enough breeze to fill their sails, but the race was on the whole a good one, and with the exception of the aforesaid dead calm at the start, and another equally provoking before reaching the Chinese coast, the race was a fair one throughout.

The Naomu certainly had a wonderful advantage, boat

everything from beginning to end, in every

state of the wind and running in ultimately a winter by many 13 minutes, her second being

not the Wave, as was expected, but the Anna.

The start was effected at 10:18 a.m., by Captain Purchase of the Fort William, who also acted as judge, Captain Ursus, the Acting Harbour Master, accompanying the race and on board the P. & O. Co.'s steamer Dragon, kindly lent for the occasion. The yacht started in the following order:

Wave.....Daphne.....Naomi.....Ann.....Volante.....Nauid.....

As there was scarcely a breath of wind the yachts kept very close together (and also not very far from the starting point) for some time, the Wave, Daphne, and the Anna passing from the N.W., while the Naomu and the Wave, which had forged ahead of the others, took up first and carried a long way in front of everything. The Anna followed with the Nauid short distance astern, Daphne and Volante getting to leeward amongst the ships. The Daylight was here observed to be in difficulty, manipulating her jib-top sail, and Daphne to leeward to leeward, Volante coming down to leeward amongst the ships. The Anna and Naomi were about even, and the breezes freshening, they ran away in good earnest for Green Island, Naomu slightly to leeward. A Green Island jib topsail was set in the westward corner was passed in the following order:

Naomu.....Nauid.....Volante.....Daylight.....Wave.....Ann.....Daphne.....

From this it will be seen that the Volante headed the Anna, and had none himself; though it was the first part of the race that it would be better to stick to 11 o'clock for all.

The Chairman was about to put the question to the rest of the Justices if they had any objection to the Hon. O. C. Smith's proposition.

Mr. Mitchell said if no the police had no objection.

Captain Denne said he had none himself; though he did not think the part of the police that it would be better to stick to 11 o'clock for all.

The Chairman was about to put the question to the rest of the Justices if they had any objection to the Hon. O. C. Smith's proposition.

Mr. Lister objected.

Bellis did not agree with Hon. O. C. Smith's idea that the houses east of the Cross Roads were more responsible than the rest.

The question being put to the vote, the rest of the Justices agreed to Mr. O. C. Smith's proposition.

Mr. Denne asked if he was allowed to speak for the time to come to any conclusion. He remarked that as Mr. Smith had noticed that Hotels east of the Cross Roads were responsible, he wished to mention there were the Hotel de la Paix, and the Royal Hotel, among many of these.

Mr. Francis said that the whole east of the Cross Roads was responsible for all the Anna, and the Royal Hotel.

Mr. Denne said he had no objection to the Anna, and the Royal Hotel.

The Justices, however, did not see it in that light, and the Chairman again asked whether all the Justices agreed to Mr. O. C. Smith's proposition.

Mr. Denne asked if he was allowed to speak for the time to come to any conclusion. He remarked that as Mr. Smith had noticed that Hotels east of the Cross Roads were responsible, he wished to mention there were the Hotel de la Paix, and the Royal Hotel, among many of these.

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Mr. Denne said he had no objection to the Anna, and the Royal Hotel.

The Justices then proceeded to take into consideration the following applications for licences:

Mr. Juster applied for a licence for the "Hamburg Tavern," and presented a paper showing that he had bought the house at auction by Mr. Armstrong, and had paid \$1,000, half the purchase money. After being warned that if he did any business in the boarding line, he would not be allowed a licence any more, he withdrew his application.

Mr. Page applied for a licence for the "Eating Sun" (formerly called the "Crown and Anchor"). Licence granted.

The Justices then resumed the discussion with reference to the publicans.

The Chairman remarked the case of a Chinese having been brought up, and fined \$500 for selling spirits against what he considered as an ordinance for denying Chinese the right of selling spirit in any quantity whatever; however, it appeared had been made and the case will come before the Superior Court.

Mr. Watt was called to make a remark, which he did not make, that the ordinance was correct, and the Chinese were forbidden to sell spirit, they were in a great plight, as some had a large stock, and there was no way of getting it off their hands if all were forbidden to sell.

Mr. Francis remarked that that was their own fault; the Ordinance was there.

Mr. Watt said, "Yes, but it has laid dormant, and they did not call it in."

The omission is really one of a serious nature, and we cannot but suppose that the line of action which has been adopted, is only the result of some very unfortunate mistake. It is not impossible that under the hope that the flaw might be easily remedied, the Superintendent decided upon keeping the matter quiet; but the actual consequences of this policy will, we are confident, be sufficient to prevent his continuing it on future occasions.

It is almost superfluous to point out the very detrimental results which may accrue in some instances; as, for example, when a mercantile man may have sent a message up to Shanghai or vice-versa, instructing his agent to perform a certain act, if he do not hear again from him—a course likely very often to be adopted when the sending of a second message is a matter of considerable expense. Serious loss might be the result in such a case; and, although we cannot pretend to have any legal knowledge especially on so difficult a point, it may be suggested that a question might very reasonably be raised whether a Telegraph Company, by receiving a message and not stating that it was not in a position to transmit it at once, would not lay itself open to damages. The reception of the message, if no intimation to the contrary is given, is an implied contract to send it in the ordinary way. True, the Company have a clause in their printed regulations to the effect that when an interruption of communication occurs, messages will be forwarded between the stations nearest to the interruption by the quickest means of communication—in the present instance the steamer Dionne, which is to call at Amoy on her way—but an intimation should be given that this course has been rendered necessary in any given case, so that the sender of the message may not be left in blissful ignorance that his communication has for all practical purposes never gone forward.

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POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

17 December.

BEFORE C. MAY, Esq.

EXCITEMENT IN THE OPium MARKET.

The excitement in the opium market, which commenced at the beginning of November, has again recurred. Mr. Watson appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Francis for the defendant. Mr. Watson applied to have the charge altered to using abusive language, thereby threatening a breach of the public peace.

The complainant stated that he spoke to defendant about his conduct in going into the water, and the weather-worn and nameless sailor about the right of a master to flog his crew.

He said that he had no chance of any kind of the most considerate treatment, and that the crew of the Naomu were wrong.

It is true that when the yachts were started there was hardly enough breeze to fill their sails, but the race was on the whole a good one, and with the exception of the aforesaid dead calm at the start, and another equally provoking before reaching the Chinese coast, the race was a fair one throughout.

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Captain Denne said he had none himself; though he did not think the part of the police that it would be better to stick to 11 o'clock for all.

The Justices, however, did not see it in that light, and the Chairman again asked whether all the Justices agreed to Mr. O. C. Smith's proposition.

Mr. Denne asked if he was allowed to speak for the time to come to any conclusion. He remarked that as Mr. Smith had noticed that Hotels east of the Cross Roads were responsible, he wished to mention there were the Hotel de la Paix, and the Royal Hotel, among many of these.

Mr. Francis said that the whole east of the Cross Roads was responsible for all the Anna, and the Royal Hotel.

Mr. Denne said he had no objection to the Anna, and the Royal Hotel.

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showing that he had bought the house at auction by Mr. Armstrong, and had paid \$1,000, half the purchase money. After being warned that if he did any business in the boarding line, he would not be allowed a licence any more, he withdrew his application.

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Mr. Denne said he had no objection to the Anna,

AN OLD INDIAN OFFICER ON COLONIAL LIFE.

(Times of India.) Sir.—Though for many years past I have been completely out of the way of reading the Indian papers—familiar as they were of old, more especially the *Bombay Times*—yet it occasionally happens that quotations from them on subjects of general interest may be met with in the various numbers of the Colonial Press; and this is also an extract from the *Times of India*, of its comparative attraction of Australian and Native for intending settlers from the Indian Service, wherein the balance was drawn in favour of the latter Colony. The paper that published the extract in question of course decried the justice of any conclusion that invalidated the claims of the Colony with which it was connected, and attempted to convince its readers that in all essential points that portion of Australia which parts the two countries of Southern Africa. Such is as the chance of this Australian advocacy being reported in any of the Indian papers, and altogether disengaged is I am to institute a fair comparison between the two countries in consequence of my never having set foot on South African shores, it nevertheless occurs to me that my experiences as a retired Indian officer and settler in Victoria will be of value to those who are about to follow my steps, and in this belief I now devote a leisure hour to the record of all that it most concerns them to be acquainted with.

Taking it for granted that, in the estimation of intending settlers, Australia will possess no social attractions in excess of those of the mother-country, and that their main object will be the acquisition of landed estates, where they can engage in pastoral or agricultural pursuits, it is a matter of small importance to estimate the first and by far the most important point on which they will require information is in regard to existing facilities for the purchase of land; and on this point I feel perfectly competent to enlighten them. The Act now in force for the disposal of the lands yet pertaining to the Crown is known under the殖民ially technical distinction of "Free selection before survey"; which means, that the Governor has the right to select from that moment available to a general mass of the populace the first corner being the first served, provided he asks for no more than \$20 acres, or, in the event of any previous holding, for sufficient only to make up that complement. The effect of this law, as may be readily conceived, and as indeed was intended, is to exclude all capitalistic, great or small, from participating in the ownership of the land; for it is only the lessor to an area that would fail to satisfy the most moderate desires of wall-to-wall men, but it gives preferential rights to the most clamorous and the most crafty of the sturdy vagabonds who are ever on the watch for a chance to make a little money. It can hardly be expected that my Indian readers will understand the motives of the Government in introducing such a law, but I can assure them that in making the law absolutely prohibitory to that class of settlers which is usually considered the most eligible in a new country. A few words will suffice to explain the matter. Some 16 or 17 years ago, when I first came to the Colonies, the lands of Victoria—good, bad, and indifferent—were in the hands of a body of men called "squatters"—not scrupulous connoisseurs in prime patches, like the best of us here, but mere scoundrels and other waste lands, but leases from the Crown of extensive tracts of hundreds of thousands of acres, in which they pursued their vast flocks and herds according to the nature and quality of the feed, with large balances at bankers, and illimitable credit at command. When these lands, or "runs," as they were called, or any portions of them, were put up to auction, then the claimants, according to the terms of the contracts of the State, the squatters of course met with no opposition from one another, and considered themselves grossly wronged if any outside competitor, with a few thousand in their pockets, entered the field against them. They held it to be an infringement of rights if they were not allowed to acquire the fee-simple of the whole of the land at the upset price of one pound per acre; and any strong bidding, or "bidding up," as it is called, of a thousand acres of the best land, could only gain his point by recklessly outbidding his opponents, and, by the sacrifice of an amount of capital that was altogether disproportioned to the intrinsic value of the property. This was precisely my own case when I attempted to settle in the Colony, it was not without incurring some ill-will and even the threats of some of the squatters, and their agents. I succeeded in securing a few hundred acres at an average rate of four to five pounds sterling.

It will be at once comprehended by my readers, that I, with "means and appliances to boot," was thus foiled in my efforts to obtain by purchase a slice of Crown land commensurate with my desires, how hopeless must have been the case of those whose funds were low, and whose ability to purchase, as compared with mine, could only have been correctly represented by the dead-weight of a man followed by a sinner, before the leading figure. It was hopeless; and indications made of small means could obtain no footing on the lands except at a ruinous sacrifice. To break through this grievous monopoly, and to "unlock the lands," became the object of several successive administrations; but every land Act that was thus purposely devised and passed into law, was more or less open to abuse, and subject to the machinations of the squatters and their myrmidons. At last, the present Act came into existence; and not only have the squatters been effectually held in check, but capital itself has been denied its legitimate rights and uses. The lands of this Colony, therefore, though unbroken to the "poor and needy," who will condescend to耕耘 them at the proprietor's bidding, are to be had at a trifling sum, and to all respectable men with money in their pockets. It is an absolutely unproportioned and penurious men who can reap the full benefit of this extraordinary Act. Possessing no land, it is he only who can apply for and obtain the maximum acreage allowed by Government; and having no money, it is he only who can fully appreciate the clause which legalizes his borrowing from the society of his Government, and giving him the right to do so, so evidently made for the impoverished classes alone; it was but a few weeks ago that the Minister of the Department declared to his constituency at an election meeting that if he had "ever strayed" it had done so only for the "poor and needy." My readers will wonder that it should have required "straying" on their account. To obtain, however, from all comment, and to demonstrate the difficulty of restricted, will be to state the conditions imposed by the Act of successive applicants. They are required to fence their land in; to make certain improvements thereon according to the extent of their respective selections; and to pay into the Treasury the sum of 2 shillings per acre annually for ten years, when, on completion of the final payment, they become entitled to the fee-simple of such lands respectively selected. This is the only land that is one of the conditions, but I rather think not the sole condition. The Act empowers a selector to transfer his land, if so desired, to another person; but it imposes no penalty, beyond forfeiture of possession, for non-compliance with stipulations; so that it is no unusual thing for a man to peg out an allotment of land and get it assigned to him without the remotest idea of desiring to or improving it. Its sole object is to induce the squatters to leave the country, and to find a home in the neighbourhood, who cannot himself select a single foot of ground, but who nevertheless can hold it as transfers, and by making it worth the while of the successful selector. This much-vaunted squatter-crushing Act is open therefore to considerable abuse, besides that it encourages robbery amongst the idle and unemployed vagabonds of the country to enable them to obtain a home, and to live in the neighbourhood, who cannot himself select a single foot of ground, but who nevertheless can hold it as transfers, and by making it worth the while of the successful selector. 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